

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
October 19, 2022

Attendance

Board Members Present

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black.	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

Staff

Crystal McGinn, Talbot County Election Director
Tammy Stafford

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public

Alyssa Hughes, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Court

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held October 19, 2022 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Swearing in of the Board of Canvassers

Ms. Hughes administered the Oath of Office to the Members for the Board of Elections to serve as the Board of Canvassers for the General Election. Ms. Hughes then departed the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist noted that draft minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting of September 21, 2022 and the Special Board Meeting of October 14, 2022 were previously sent to Board Members. He asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to these minutes. Mr. Black moved approval of the Minutes of September 21. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passes by a vote of 4 yeases (Black, Thomas, Secrist and MacKinnon) and one abstention (Bulman). Mr. Bulman moved approval of the Minutes of October 19. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Changes to and Approval of the Agenda

In advance of this meeting, Ms. McGinn mailed to each Board Member material for the meeting, including an agenda which had been posted on the Board web site. Ms. McGinn provided an updated agenda for consideration by the Board. The updated agenda added "Swearing In of Canvass Board" and "Public Demo Paperwork". Additional agenda items were suggested by Ms. MacKinnon as follows:

- Work Session for discussion of Interview of Election Director Candidates
- Discussion of Interim Election Director
- Polling Place Evaluation Assignments
- Early Canvass

Mr. Black moved to approve of the agenda with the addition of the items suggested by Ms. McGinn and Ms. MacKinnon. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Ms. McGinn provided the Board with a written report on activities since the September 2022 Board Meeting. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes. She updated the number of Mail-In ballot requests received and the number of ballots returned. She also noted that she now plans to send the precinct registers to the printer on October 22, 2022.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan reported on her recent participation on a conference call meeting with other Local Election Board Attorneys. She will send copies of the meeting minutes to Board Members and Ms. McGinn. Regarding *Gibson, et al. v. Frederick County*, the parties are discussing settlement.

Ms. Ryan reported that multiple Mail-In ballots were sent to 115 people in 11 counties. All affected voters have been advised that they may only vote one ballot. The poll books will capture any one who submits the second ballot.

Old Business

A. Facility for Election Office

There is no new information from the county regarding relocation of the Election Board.

B. Budget FY 2023

Copies of financial reports as of October 6, 2022 were previously sent to Board Members. There were no questions regarding these reports.

C. Review of Invoices

Copies of Invoices since the September Board Meeting were previously provided to Board Members. The Board discussed an invoice for the Election Director to attend the Mid Winter iGO Conference and the appropriateness of the Talbot County paying this expense since the conference will be after Ms. McGinn's departure. Ms. McGinn said she will withdraw the submission of this invoice.

D. County Bulletins

Copies of the Bulletins through October 7, 2022 were previously provided to Board Members. There was no discussion regarding them.

E. Polling Place Evaluation Assignments

Board Members volunteered to conduct Polling Place Evaluations as follows:

Mr. Secrist – Wittman, Tilghman
Mr. Black – St. Michaels, Royal Oak, Early Voting (Easton Firehouse)
Mr. Bulman – Trappe, Oxford, Community Center
Ms. MacKinnon – Easton High School, Early Voting (Easton Firehouse)
Ms. Thomas – Easton Firehouse, Cordova

F. Work Session for discussion of Interview of Election Director Candidates/Discussion of Interim Election Director

Board Members, together with Board Attorney, discussed the need to submit questions for the candidates for the Election Director position. Mr. Secrist reported on his discussion with the State Board staff. The Board also discussed the timing of Ms. McGinn's departure will most likely result in the need for the Board to appoint an Interim Election Director. Mr. Bulman moved that the Board meet at 9:30 AM on November 2, 2022 to discuss 1) the interview questions and other procedural issues regarding the selection of the next Election Director, and 2) the appointment of an interim Election Director if needed, following Ms. McGinn's departure. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

G. Early Canvass

Ms. McGinn summarized the procedures to be followed when the Board of Canvassers meet in October 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Board's warehouse at 28712 Glebe Road, Easton, Maryland.

New Business

A. Public Demo Paperwork

Ms. McGinn reported that the staff completed the demonstration of the use of voting equipment at the Board's warehouse on Glebe Road. It was announced to the public on our web site, however no members of the public attended. We are required to certify that the Public Demonstration was conducted. She provided Board members the necessary paperwork to sign to certify that the demonstration was conducted. All Board Members signed the certification.

Confirmation of the next meeting

Mr. Secrist announced that the next monthly meeting of the Board will be held at the Board office on Bay Street on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 9:30 AM and a Special Meeting of the Board will be held at the Board office on Bay Street on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 9:30 AM.

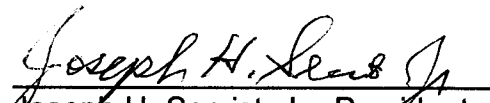
Board of Canvassers convene

At this point, the Election Board met as the Board of Canvassers. Ms. McGinn presented 3 Mail-In ballots that were received following the close of the canvass. They were inspected by Board Members. These ballots must be rejected due to their arrival from the post office after the close of canvassing. Ms. MacKinnon moved that the 3 ballots be rejected. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Attested,


Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,


Richard B. Bulman, Secretary